

Amendment and Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Applicant: Ravi Chandar et al.

Serial No.: 09/895,760

Filed: June 29, 2001

Docket No.: 10008058-1 (H302.177.101)

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DETERMINING COMPUTER ACCESS WITH ELECTRONIC PAYMENT MECHANISM

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 13.

Please amend claims 15, 22, 23 as follows:

1-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A selective access computer system comprising:

a computing workstation having at least one software application and at least one input/output device;

a selective access mechanism for obtaining electronic payment authorization for a user's financial instrument and for permitting selective access to the computer workstation upon payment authorization for the user, the selective access mechanism including:

a credit card and bank-issued debit card reader connected to the computing workstation for obtaining payment authorization;

a resource tracker configured for determining an amount to be charged to the user based on at least one of a total amount of time that the computer system is used and a number of requests to the at least one input/output device of the computer workstation;

a desktop user interface to enable access, upon receipt of payment authorization, to at least one of:

a program monitor configured for enabling selection of the at least one software application; and

~~16~~ a peripheral input/output monitor configured for enabling selection of the at least one input/output device; and

The computer system of claim 13 wherein the selective access mechanism comprises:

a screen saver configured for appearing on a display of the computing workstation to prevent access to the desktop user interface of the computing workstation until payment authorization is received.

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16-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 15 wherein the screen saver comprises:

an icon display representing the at least one software application available at the computer system;

a price display representing information regarding prices for using the computer system; and

a demonstration function representing the at least one software application.

22. (Currently Amended) A selective access computer system comprising:

a computing workstation having at least one software application and at least one input/output device;

a selective access mechanism for obtaining electronic payment authorization for a user's financial instrument and for permitting selective access to the computer workstation upon payment authorization for the user, the selective access mechanism including:

a credit card and bank-issued debit card reader connected to the computing workstation for obtaining payment authorization;

a resource tracker configured for determining an amount to be charged to the user based on at least one of a total amount of time that the computer system is used and a number of requests to the at least one input/output device of the computer workstation;

a desktop user interface to enable access, upon receipt of payment authorization, to at least one of:

a program monitor configured for enabling selection of the at least one software application ~~The computer system of claim 13 wherein the program monitor and comprising: comprises:~~

a keyword function menu configured to enable activation of the at least one software application and including at least one of a word processor function, a spreadsheet function, a presentation function, and an application service provider function; and

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a peripheral input/output monitor configured for enabling selection of the at least one input/output device.

23. (Currently Amended) A selective access computer system comprising:

a computing workstation having at least one software application and at least one input/output device;

a selective access mechanism for obtaining electronic payment authorization for a user's financial instrument and for permitting selective access to the computer workstation upon payment authorization for the user, the selective access mechanism including:

a credit card and bank-issued debit card reader connected to the computing workstation for obtaining payment authorization;

a resource tracker configured for determining an amount to be charged to the user based on at least one of a total amount of time that the computer system is used and a number of requests to the at least one input/output device of the computer workstation;

a desktop user interface to enable access, upon receipt of payment authorization, to at least one of:

a program monitor configured for enabling selection of the at least one software application; and

a peripheral input/output monitor configured for enabling selection of the at least one input/output device ~~The computer system of claim 13 wherein the peripheral input/output monitor comprises:~~ and comprising:

a keyword function menu configured to enable activation of the at least one input/output device and including at least one of a printer function, a scanner function, a copier function, a facsimile function, and a digital sender function.

24. (Previously Presented) A selective access computer system comprising:

a computing workstation having at least one software application and at least one input/output device;

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a selective access mechanism for obtaining electronic payment authorization for a user's financial instrument and for permitting selective access to the computer workstation upon payment authorization for the user, the selective access mechanism including:

a credit card and bank-issued debit card reader connected to the computing workstation for obtaining payment authorization; and

a resource tracker configured for:

determining an amount to be charged to the user based on at least one of a total amount of time that the computer system is used and a number of requests to the at least one input/output device of the computer workstation; and

tracking use of the computer system for billing purposes including at least one of the following parameters:

time of use for the at least one software application;

time of use of the at least one input/output device; and

quantity of each item produced by the at least one input/output device.

25. (Previously Presented) A selective access computer system comprising:

a computing workstation having at least one software application and at least one input/output device wherein the at least one input/output device comprises at least one of a scanner, a printer, a facsimile machine, and a copier, each being configured for conveying input and output from the computer system;

a selective access mechanism for obtaining electronic payment authorization for a user's financial instrument and for permitting selective access to the computer workstation upon payment authorization for the user, the selective access mechanism including:

a credit card and bank-issued debit card reader connected to the computing workstation for obtaining payment authorization; and

a resource tracker configured for determining an amount to be charged to the user based on at least one of a total amount of time that the computer system is used and a number of requests to the at least one input/output device of the computer workstation.

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26. (Previously Presented) A selective access computer system comprising:

a computing workstation having at least one software application and at least one input/output device wherein the at least one software application comprises at least one of a word processor program, a spreadsheet program, a presentation program, and an application service provider program;

a selective access mechanism for obtaining electronic payment authorization for a user's financial instrument and for permitting selective access to the computer workstation upon payment authorization for the user, the selective access mechanism including:

a credit card and bank-issued debit card reader connected to the computing workstation for obtaining payment authorization; and

a resource tracker configured for determining an amount to be charged to the user based on at least one of a total amount of time that the computer system is used and a number of requests to the at least one input/output device of the computer workstation.